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APRIL 6, 2017

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Demand for judicial review into 'flawed' public consultation

LEGAL ACTION



Protest outside Banbury Town Hall against cuts to maternity services at nearby Horton Hospital

Hannah Somerville

THE gloves are off as a legal challenge is mounted against the ongoing 'confusing and flawed' consultation on the future of Oxfordshire's NHS.

Councils and campaigners have jointly filed an application for judicial review into how Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group has consulted on its 'transformation plans'.

Plans have been split into two halves and phase one, which includes the closure of 200 acute beds across the county and changes to services at the Horton, ends on Sunday, April 9.

Cherwell District Council, Banbury Town Council, South Northampton-shire Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council are acting as co-claim-

The group is also being supported by and working alongside the Keep the Horton General (KTHG) campaign and its lawyers in London. KTHG chair Keith Strangwood said: "I

am relieved to be able to tell the world what we are doing.
"We had been advised to keep our

plans under wraps. Now we can formally say the gloves are off.

"KTHG will fight every inch of the way to keep full services at our Horton."

Plans on the table include an increase

in outpatient capacity at the Horton.

But the Banbury hospital could also lose all stroke care, some critical care, consultant-led maternity and the Special Care Baby Unit.

Plans for Oxfordshire form part of a wider-ranging 'sustainability and transformation plan' covering three counties aiming to avoid a deficit of £587m by 2020/21.

The consortium says it has a case due to the split nature of the consultation, which has caused 'widespread confu-

sion' among would-be consultees.

Ian Davies, interim chief executive of Cherwell, said: "Those who will be most affected by any changes are unsure as to what is happening.
"These proposals have significant and

permanent implications for future access to local services.

"We consider it entirely unaccepta-ble that the OCCG is trying to move ahead with plans which have not been understood by those who will suffer the consequences." Banbury Town Council leader Ki-eron Mallon added: "As councils, it's

right and proper that we represent the people in the Horton catchment area.

"We think we have got good grounds based on confusing information in the consultation document and the way it has been split into two halves."

Application for judicial review costs £154 and £770 to proceed to a full hearing but total costs could be around £30,000, which will be jointly paid by the councils and KTHG.

So far KTHG has paid £7,000 for law-yers and has £6,000 worth of commit-ments from local businesses to help stump up if the group loses or costs

Individuals and businesses in Banbury who would like to help out can contribute to the Horton Hospital Fighting Fund at Lloyds Bank.

Mr Strangwood said: "Hospitals all around the country are going through this. If we can take this to court and win it will be a landmark.

A decision from the courts over whether there is a case to answer is expected over the course of April.

CCG spokeswoman Ally Green said:

"The CCG has received a letter confirming the action being taken by Cherwell District Council and will respond appropriately.







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Printed and published by Newsquest Oxfordshire, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EJ. Tel: 01865 425362. Newspaper Sales Department 01865 425282. Direct Delivery 0800 028 4592.

Poldark's horse is star of show

TV companion back to the day job as he joins Spiceball performance

Hannah Somerville

hannah.somerville@nqo.com

ALL the fun of the fair will return in June as a special guest clip-clops to centre stage at the Banbury and District Show.

Seamus the horse found fame cantering along the Cornish clifftops alongside Aidan Turner in the latest version of vintage TV drama *Poldark*.

But the 15-year-old Irish draft horse will be back to his day job among the Atkinson Liberty Action Horses performing in the main arena in Spiceball Park.

It will be just one of a huge array of spectacles set to pull in thousands of families, foodies, bargainhunters and thrill-seekers on Sunday, June 11.

As usual, the day is organised by Banbury Town Council. Events manager Ann Sewell said: "The show will be a fantastic family day

"This year's event will be of the usual high standard and once again we are providing something new by way of the Arts Fest." The Art Fest will see 35 artists

pitch up to celebrate local creative endeavour, with a chance to watch potters, painters and weavers at work and buy their goods. The Liberty Horses will be joined



A crowd gathers to watch the ferret racing at the Banbury and District Show

in the main arena by dog owners at the Banbury Cross Flyball Club and the Up 'n' Over dog club demonstrating the skills of their pets.

Motorcycle daredevils Stunt Mania will perform also death-defying tricks on two wheels.

A second arena in the parkwill be given over to music, dancing and drama, with performers including Stagecoach, Kaleidoscope Theatre College and Implexa Dance

Company.

Rides and slides for all ages will be on offer at a funfair while stalls and sideshows will include inflatables, go karts, climbing wall, falconry, ferret racing, derby hoppers, charity stalls, trade stands, and food and drink outlets including a beer tent.

Ms Sewell added: "The entertainment in the two arenas will be superb and there will be something for all the family.



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Fossil thieves target Jurassic rocks - claim

'These people know what they are after. It's not just vandals, they have taken the fossils,' says expert

Hannah Somerville

A RETIRED paleontologist has branded 'fossil poachers' responsible for the destruction of two giant Jurassic rocks

on display by the roadside.
Edward Smith, 80, has complained to Cherwell District Council about the loss of the rocks, which weigh over a ton each and contained 190 millionyear-old fossils.

They were unearthed from the foundation works of the New Grimsbury Water Treatment Works in 1994 while the Thames Water facility was being

Eventually with the co-operation of the council and the Natural History Museum they were placed on display underneath the Hennef Way road bridge near Spiceball Park. Mr Smith, an expert in freshwater

ecology from Banbury, originally found them on the site along with a giant 180 million-year-old coral. He said: "These fossils are ammonites

from a particular geological zone and are representative of that particular

"They are very rarely seen. We put the rocks there so students who were interested could come and have a look.

'Over the years they have gradually been worn away and has now disappeared completely due to people taking bits and pieces. I am rather annoyed."

The fossils include molluscs from

the Lower Liassic Jurassic period and were determined by Phillip Palmer, a paleontologist at the Natural History Museum in London.

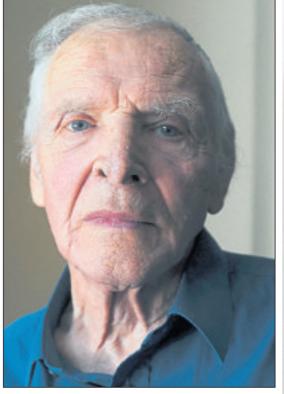
The stones would have lain on the shallow sea bed of the ancient 'Tethys Sea' of nearly 190 million years ago.

Mr Smith said he was sure the fossils

embedded in them had been 'gradually broken up and stolen' by 'indiscrimi-

nate private collector types'.

He added: "These people know what they're after. It's not just vandals; they have taken the fossils



At the time they were found the fos-sils caused 'some excitement' among

Natural History Museum staff. Speaking to the Banbury Guardian in June 1994, the museum's coral expert Brian Rosen said: "North Oxfordshire is part of a rich vein or Jurassic fossils so this was not an unusual find but

Ted Smith who says fossil poachers are to blame for the two huge fossil-laden stones on display in Grimsbury being reduced to



of the fossils found at Grimsbury inside

New sightings of blue and great tits plummeting

THE number of blue tits in Oxford-shire gardens has dropped by 20 per cent in the past year.

Sightings of great tits, chaffinches and carrion crows also fell by a similar amount, while the number of green-finches plummeted by 42 per cent from 2016 to 2017

Overall, half of the top 20 bird species recorded in Oxfordshire for this year's Big Garden Birdwatch fell since

last year.
The RSPB said many of the drops could be attributed to wet weather during the 2016 breeding season killing off

ing the 2016 breeding season killing off young birds in the smallest species. But the charity also said the results highlighted the importance of gardens in sustaining wildlife. Gary Smith, warden at RSPB Otmoor just outside Oxford, said "That is really important all year-round, especially in sorting whose hidden to twice the control of the control cially in spring when birds are trying to raise five or six chicks."

The warnings about declining numbers tie in with the first Oxfordshire State of Nature report published by Wild Oxfordshire in March.

That report warned that many species in the county are in decline and the turtle dove and nightingale are

nearly extinct here.

A total of 8,332 adults and children took part in this year's Big Garden Birdwatch in Oxfordshire, an increase of more than 1,000 people on 2016. The house sparrow kept its crown

as the most common garden bird in Oxfordshire, being spotted in 71 per cent of gardens, with an average of 3.9 birds per garden. It was followed in the local rankings by the blackbird, star-

ling and wood pigeon.
Mr Smith said the huge local participation in this year's survey and the stability of the top-ranking birds showed that people in Oxfordshire were doing

the right things to help wildlife.

Oxfordshire also cashed in on what
the RSPB called a 'boom' in unusual migrant visitors such as waxwings.

A flock of the Scandinavian natives, last seen in Oxfordshire five years ago, attracted a flock of birdwatchers when they alighted in trees on Marston Road, Oxford, in January, days before this year's birdwatch.
Oxfordshire's results tally well with

the national picture, with house sparrows, starlings, blackbirds and pigeons the top four birds spotted.

Teen girls historic abuse suspects are remanded in custody after dawn raids

SUSPECTED sex offenders accused of abusing teenage girls have been remanded in custody.

Eight men, arrested as part of a police probe into non-recent child sexual exploitation, spoke only to confirm their details when they appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court last Thursday.

Suspects were charged after dawn raids

across Banbury, when 120 officers stormed properties as part of Operation Nautical at 6am on Tuesday, March 28.

The charges relate to three alleged victims between 2008 and 2015. Leon Cole, of Alma Road, Banbury,

appeared in the dock alone, shouting to a woman in the public gallery 'be sure you make a visit innit – love ya babes' as he was escorted to the cells.

The 19-year-old was charged with two counts of rape of a girl, rape of a woman, two counts of aiding and abetting to procure the rape of a girl, false imprisonment, intimidating a witness and sexual assault.



Suspects arrested as part of Operation Nautical appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court

Qamran Hafiz, of Danesmoor, Banbury, and Ateeq Hussain, of Avenue Road, Banbury, both 24, appeared together in the dock, speaking only to confirm their

Hafiz was charged with 11 counts of

rape of a girl and inciting a girl to engage in sexual activity, while Hussain was charged with five counts of rape of a girl and two counts of inciting a girl to engage

in sexual activity.

Wearing a grey jumper and khaki
trousers, Tafail Mohammed, 23, of East Close, Banbury, appeared at the court charged with rape of a girl.

Abdul Safraz, 31, Nasser Younis, 37, and

Marcelo Suarez, 20, strolled into the courtroom, which was packed with loved-ones waiting in the public gallery.

Safraz, of Deacon Way, Banbury, was charged with three counts of rape of a girl, while Suarez, of Hillside, Banbury, was charged with the rape of a woman.

Younis, of Sandford Green, Banbury, was charged with six counts of rape of a girl and taking an indecent photograph of

All will appear before Oxford Crown Court along with at least six other men arrested as part of the investigation on Tuesday, April 25.



Times have changed for fire





Dave Etheridge and family at Windsor Castle, on the day he was awarded his OBE by the Queen

It's not just battling blazes any more says boss, as he heads to retirement

Matt Oliver

AFTER 30 'incredible' years at the head of Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, fire chief Dave Etheridge OBE will this week retire.

In that time, he says the authority has changed dramatically. So much so that he now has the 'nice problem' of struggling to keep up with everything his organisation

For firefighters don't just fight fires anymore - they are out in the community helping with all kinds of public safety issues, as he told reporter Matt Oliver.

"The whole culture is different now. It's all about protection and prevention.

We do a lot of work with the elderly and infirm, doorstep crime, road safety with young people, healthy eating in schools, smoking cessation and fitness campaigns."

The main catalyst for change, says 50-year-old fire chief Dave Etheridge, has been his service's groundbreaking '365alive' safety campaign.

Since its launch in 2005, it is es timated to have saved almost 400 lives and made 840,000 people safer through education about fire risks and road danger. It has also saved the taxpayer an estimated

But all it started as an idea dreamt up by Mr Etheridge and colleagues in an Abingdon coffee

shop.
It was one of the first times they had ever looked in detail at road deaths, which were 'simply too high', he says.

"We started to look at the figures of people killed in the county. If you looked at 1995 to 2005, we had lost 39 people in fires but we'd lost 477 on the roads.

"Every week there was a father, mother, son or daughter being wiped out."

They put together a plan that would help them educate people most at risk. For fires this was the elderly, but for road crashes it was young people – so they set about touring the county's schools with hard-hitting pres entations about the tragedy that road crashes cause.

Mr Etheridge had been left affected by one particular crash in the late 1990s involving a 21-yearold women.

He said: "All incidents stand out for different reasons, but the one that affected me most was a traffic collision I attended in the early hours of a Saturday morning.

A heavily intoxicated man had tried to drive home and hit another car head on, flinging his car into a field and killing him.

The other vehicle was being driven by a girl, who had huge internal injuries," Mr Etheridge said. "It was a clear night with a big blue moon and I was managing the incident.

"As the girl was cut out, you could see on the surface she had barely any cuts – she looked perfect. But she went on to a

stretcher and was taken away by an air ambulance and I remember thinking, 'if she dies, that is a horrendous waste of a young

life'."

He picked up his son from school the next day and it transpired one of his teachers was the girl's godmother – he learnt she had died from her injuries.

"All of a sudden, you've got a connection and it hits you. I went along to the funeral, to pay my respects, which was something I had never done before.

'That incident, I would say, was the catalyst that made me want to do more on road safety. I wanted to stop another 21-year-old girl having to go through that ever

'One of my colleagues had also lost his son to a road collision and so we were both fired up to do something."

The campaign, 365alive, was a huge success and is now seen as model for how to get results within the service, he says.

"People in the organisation said 'how are we going to do this?' but I just thought, 'we've got to do it, because then we will stretch to meet those targets'."

Mr Etheridge believes the fire service's position as part of Oxfordshire County Council was crucial, because it had direct access to other services such as schools, social care and high-

ways departments.
The original 365alive gramme ran from 2005 to 2015, with the service hitting its targets early – but a new vision has now been developed for up to

This will aim to keep 6,000 more people alive through emergency first responding, which the fire service now assists the ambu-

chief after 30 years' service





Chief Fire Officer Dave Etheridge shows senior Thames Valley Police officers around the Didcot Power Station site after the 2016 boiler house collapse

lance service with, as well as 85,000 children and young people educated about healthy living, 37,500 adults made safer through visits to their homes and 20,000 businesses given safety advice.

It is, characteristically for the fire service, a daunting challenge but one which the organisation appears to rel-

Mr Etheridge insists he had little to do



Oxfordshire fire service battles the fire at Oxford's Randolph Hotel on April 17, 2015

with its development and, instead, it is being led by the next generation of officers and firefighters

It's a fitting legacy for someone who says he was brought up to believe 'if someone is in trouble, you don't just walk past'

"That culture has heavily influenced how I've been in the service. I now look at everything and think about how we

could help make a difference.

"But that has gone across the whole organisation - you could talk to any firefighter now and they would talk about the massive breadth of activities they are involved in, rather than 30 years ago, when I joined, when you'd sit there waiting for things to happen.

"It makes me feel incredibly proud."



Ex-footballer sent to jail following high-speed chase

Driver crashed into tree after going at 120mph in drug-fuelled pursuit

Annabal Bagdi abagdi@nqo.com

A FORMER footballer who zoomed along the county's streets in a high-speed police chase has been jailed.

Provisional licence holder Leon Caton smashed into a tree after racing at speeds reaching 120mph in the cannabis-fuelled pursuit.

The 25-year-old was forced to abandon his dreams of a professional football career after a car crash left him needing a metal rod

in his leg six years ago.
Sentencing at Oxford Crown
Court, Judge Maria Lamb slammed Caton for his 'appalling' driving at 'grossly excessive' speeds and locked him up for 14 months.

She issued Caton – a driver for food delivery service HelloFresh – with a two-and-a-half year driving ban, telling him: "It really beggars belief that someone who them-selves had the misfortune of being a victim of a serious car accident could drive in the way that you did. It is miraculous that you did not at least seriously injure, if not kill, other road users."

A policeman was on the A4260, between Kidlington and Banbury, when he spotted Caton's Volkswagen Golf travelling south at 'considerable speed' at about midnight on March 30 last year.

The speeding motorist was chased through Deddington, where he flouted 30mph speed limits and raced along the roads at 50mph.

He drove the wrong way around a roundabout at the junction between the A4260 and the A44, while two cyclists were nearby, before turning towards Woodstock

The officer lost sight of Caton as he raced through Woodstock but spotted him later, chasing him along the A44 through Enstone and the B4022.

The pursuit saw Caton dashing across roads at 100mph in 60mph zones, prosecutor Cathy Olliver told the court on Wednesday. The officer was forced to zoom along at 120mph at one point during the chase, in an attempt to catch Caton, who must pay a victim surcharge.

Caton, who had 4.7 milligrams of cannabis in 100ml of blood which exceeded the legal limit of 2 milligrams, crashed into a tree soon after, claiming he was trying to avoid a deer. The court heard he had taken the cannabis within six to eight hours of the crash.

Defence barrister Lateef Folaranmi said Caton, who had 19 convictions for 25 offences, could not explain why he offended but deeply regretted it.

The qualified football coach, who already had six points on his licence, had been a keen local foot-baller before his 2011 accident and had been offered the chance to play in America. He struggled to come to terms with his shattered dreams after his life spiralled out of control, the barrister claimed.

Caton, of Harlequin Way, Ban-bury, admitted dangerous driving, driving whilst unfit through drugs, driving without insurance and driving otherwise in accordance with a licence.



Joel Sayer and Caddie

Youngster raises vital cash for dogs

A STAGGERING £32,000 has been donated to a Banbury charity training life-changing assistance dogs inspired by an autistic

teenager and his dog Caddie. Joel Sayer, 13, from Cornwall, was given Caddie by Dogs for Good as a companion and to give him confidence.

The youngster and his pet stole

the nation's heart after he was listed as one of four finalists for the Eukanaba Friends for Life award at Crufts.

Since then thousands of pounds have flooded in from the public, including one anonymous donor who sent a whopping £20,000. His mother Janet said: "Until

Joel had Caddie he didn't want to

go outside. He rarely even used to

smile.
"Everything about the world around him frightened him and meant that he only felt safe when he was at home.

Caddie was trained by Dogs for Good, which trains and provides assistance dogs to people with disabilities and autism from its base in Blacklocks Hill.

It also trains activity and therapy dogs to work with specialist handlers in communities and schools

Joel himself pledged his £1,500 winnings for reaching the final to Dogs for Good and raised a further £3,700 once the competition was over.



Patients may be given less time with GPs in NHS 'rescue plan'

People could be triaged by pharmacists to judge how ill they actually are

Hannah Somerville hsomerville@nqo.com

PATIENTS will have less time to see their doctor in a major rescue plan that aims to cut 'avoidable' face-to-face appointments.

Health bosses yesterday approved sweeping plans to address Oxfordshire's GP crisis that have already been criticised as 'cuts in disguise'.

It follows the closure of a number of GP practices in the last year, with more than a dozen others warning they could go the same way.

The plans agreed yesterday:

Patients will not have an 'automatic right' to see a doctor or receive a home visit. Instead a 'triage' will be done to assess patients before same-day or urgent appointments are given

■ More people will be told to 'selfcare' and manage their own conditions

■ Frail elderly patients will have a '24/7 care plan co-ordinated by their GP' with a 24/7 phone support line

■ Hubs to be created for patients to get health and lifestyle advice on



Eddie Duller, chairman of Healthwatch Oxfordshire

issues like smoking and weight

Patients needing significant medical care to get 15-minute appointments but with GPs limited to 13 a day. These patients make up about four per cent of all those seen at a given time.

Agreed by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the plan cites a national survey which stated that 27 per cent of GP consultations are 'potentially avoidable'.

Eddie Duller, of Healthwatch Oxfordshire, said: "One of the great dangers is that people might slip through the net completely and don't go when they should."

Instead, the CCG hopes that nurses and social workers, pharmacists, optometrists and dentists, will have

a role to play in improving health. Pharmacists are cited as an option to potentially triage, treat and refer

patients.

But Pupinder Ghatora, of Woodlands Pharmacy in Botley Road, said: "GPs are under pressure but

pharmacists are no better:
"We are supposed to be the first line of defence and we are treated

like the doormat of the NHS."

Some weekend access will be available and the CCG wants patients to be able to book a routine appointment within seven days.

At the same time GPs are being urged to combine their resources and form 'super-practices' with up to 20,000 patients.

Groups of two to five practices will be jointly responsible for the health of populations of 30,000 to 50,000 – the size of an Oxford suburb.

Prit Buttar, chairman of the Oxfordshire Local Medical Committee, said: "The bottom line is that resources and demand don't match. Anything that sounds like 'sustainability' is a cut in disguise."

ability' is a cut in disguise."
Julie Dandridge, deputy director
of the CCG, said: "Our vision is to
provide enhanced primary care,
extended primary care teams, and
more specialised care closer to
home delivered in partnership with
community, acute and social care
colleagues.

"Future work will now take place in each locality to develop local plans for primary care. Patient involvement in this process will be paramount."

* A legal challenge was launched by Cherwell District Council this week after a 'flawed' consultation over plans to shake up NHS services in Oxfordshire which includes the closure of 200 hospital beds.



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Increase in animal cruelty cases 'due to better reporting'

Pups are rescued as incidents reported to RSPCA in county rise 8% in 2016

Pete Hughes

THE RSPCA has said it hopes a rise in the number of animal cruelty complaints in Oxfordshire is down to better awareness and reporting, rather than more animal cruelty.

Latest figures released by the charity yesterday show it dealt with 8.4 per cent more reports and concerns in 2016 than 2015 - 1,299 incidents compared to 1,198.

It also won nine animal cruelty convictions against three people in Oxfordshire in 2016 compared to three convictions against three people the year before.

Just one of the cases it had to investigate locally last year involved three puppies found in a bucket by the roadside in Bicester.

The lurcher cross pups were spotted by a member of public over the August Bank Holiday weekend who contacted the RSPCA

Inspector Andy Eddy said: "These poor pups had been left alone in this broken bucket and were clam-

bering on top of each other.
"They were suffering with mange, diarrhoea and worms, but with ex-

pert care, they all thankfully made a good recovery. "I assume, as they'd been left on a pavement, that the person responsible was hoping they would be found and helped.

"However, they had no water, and leaving them exposed like this was really dangerous."

The dumped dogs, christened Flora, Enid and Delilah, were taken to a local vets where they were unex-pectedly reunited with their moth-er, also picked up as a stray.

Now the siblings have all found new homes and so has their mum.

Annabell Pottle from Ardley Rescue Kennels, who helped to find them homes, said: "It's so sad that someone would do this to such love

"We are pleased they have gone on to find new homes. I still see Delilah

quite often as she is now owned by our vet

The rise in Oxfordshire investigations is in line with a five per cent rise in the charity's work across the

Every day last year the RSPCA dealt with nearly 400 allegations of animal cruelty.

But the charity's leading inspec-

tor believes the surge in calls was down to the public becoming more aware and less tolerant of animal cruelty and neglect, rather than a sign of people being more cruel.

Dermot Murphy, assistant director of the RSPCA inspectorate, said: "I believe that the figures from last year show that people are simply less willing to stand by and do nothing if they think an animal is suffering.

"People are increasingly likely to share images or footage on their social media accounts of animals they believe are not being cared for properly, while many will see material their friends have shared and then contact us about them.



RECOVERED: The lurcher cross puppies rescued by the RSPCA from the

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Gracewell of Adderbury, Banbury Road, Adderbury OX17 3PL





Get set, bake for service heroes

Readers urged to make cakes to sell for charity rehabilitating soldiers

By Michael Race mrace@nqo.com

THE Oxford Mail today calls on readers to bake in aid of Help for Heroes as the charity marks its 10th birthday.

Oxfordshire has been chosen as one of the key regions for the Bake for Heroes campaign to raise cash to support wounded, injured and sick veterans, soldiers and their families.

And in backing the campaign, volunteer baker Maureen Morris from Kidlington is getting her family, friends and neighbours to crack some eggs open and get out their

mixing bowls.

The ingredients for success are simple – supporters can sign up for a free fundraising pack through the charity to bake cupcakes, sponges, biscuits, flapjacks or whatever tasty treat they fancy, and sell them to raise money

raise money.

Mrs Morris, from Kidlington, has been taking part in Bake for Heroes for the past four years.

The 76-year-old said: "A lot of peo-

ple enjoy baking and it's something the whole family can get involved in. A bake sale is also a great way to meet your neighbours and new

"The satisfaction you get from



Maureen Morris, 76, has already raised hundreds through bake sales and she's encouraging others to do the same.

raising the money and knowing the difference it is making to help people's lives is wonderful."

The grandmother and mother-of-two was motivated to help the charity as her great-niece Anna Goodall,

from Eynsham, suffered serious brain injuries while serving in Kosovo in the 1990s. Anna was thrown from an army vehicle in an accident and hit her head. She was in a coma several weeks and later did months of rehabilitation and had to

learn to walk and talk again.

Although several years before the formation of H4H, Maureen discovered the benefit of rehabilitation for injured service people as Anna



made a good recovery.

She also wanted to raise money in memory of her uncle, Richard At-kins, who was awarded the Military Medal in the First World War three weeks before he was killed in action

aged 21.

Mrs Morris, a widow who used to work in a production department for one of Robert Maxwell's publishing companies, added: "I probably bake around 60 cupcakes and 10 large cakes."

The Bake for Heroes campaign runs from April 15 to April 30.

Bake sales can be as big or small as participants want and there will be a "Roll of Honour", published in the Oxford Mail at the end of campaign, showing all the organisations and individuals who took part.

Sara Taylor, managing editor of the Oxford Mail, said: "We are de-lighted to be supporting Bake For Heroes and it has all the ingredients of being a fantastic community effort by the people of Oxford. The beauty of it is that it is so easy to take part as almost everyone has a kitchen and people of all ages love

"I would urge the people of Oxford to rise to the occasion and help make a difference.

To take part visit bakeforheroes. org.uk or call 01980 846459.

Banbury Cake

Reader Offers Quality holidays & breaks at affordable prices



Neil Diamond in Concert

50th Anniversary Concert at the Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

2 days from £215.00, 13 October 2017

See Neil Diamond in an unforgettable 50th Anniversary concert at Birmingham's famously iconic Barclaycard Arena, and enjoy all the cultural heritage of Stratford--upon-Avon

Highlights & inclusions

- A seated ticket for the Neil Diamond concert at The Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham (face value £65). Ticket upgrades available
- One night's bed and buffet breakfast hotel accommodation based on a twin room with private facilities in
- the Midlands
- Return coach transfers between your hotel and the concert venue
- Visit to Stratford-upon-Avon
- · Coach travel from the local area
- · Escorted by a friendly tour manager

Durham's Lumière Light Festival

A feast for the eyes

3 days from £185.00, 17 November 2017

See the beautiful city of Durham transformed into a nocturnal wonderland as Britain's largest light festival returns to the historic city for four magical nights and sets the city ablaze with light.

Highlights & inclusions

- A visit to the Lumière Light Festival in Durham
- A visit to the Metrocentre
- Shopping and sightseeing in York
- Two nights' bed and English breakfast accommodation in a good
- hotel in the Teesside area
- Dinner at the hotel on the first evening
- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager













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CakeLeisure 2

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Sensitive portrait of a poet

A QUIET PASSION (12A, 125 mins) Drama/Romance. Cynthia Nix-on, Jennifer Ehle, Duncan Duff, Keith Carradine, Catherine Bailey, Jodhi May, Noemie Schel-lens, Emma Bell. Director: Terence Davies.
BORN and raised in Amherst.

Massachusetts, where she spent most of her adulthood and died at the age of 55 in 1886 from Bright's disease, poet Emily Dickinson evaded the grubby fingers of fame in her reclusive lifetime.

A heavily edited first collection of her poetry emerged four years after her death and it was a further 65 years before her complete works were published, solidifying her status as one of the most important American writers of the 19th Century. Writer-director Terence Davies

clearly feels a deep affinity with Dickinson and his labour of love, A Quiet Passion, paints a richly detailed portrait of a

misunderstood woman. His script appropriates some of Emily's own words, but is a subjective fictional account that captures both his subject's solemnity and her caustic wit like her throwaway barb about hypocrisy – "In America, we cherish it" – or her withering assessment of her chances of finding a husband: "I am a kangaroo amongst the beauties. Let us hope the man who courts me will have an interest in

zoology."
The film follows young Emily (Emma Bell) from her time at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary to her later years (now played by Cynthia Nixon), when she writes her poetry late at night with the blessing of her pious father, Edward (Keith Carradine).

In early scenes, Emily's reluctance to slavishly follow teachings - her soul is her own. not God's – prickles her educators

She returns home less than a year into her studies and

repeatedly clashes with her father, a prominent politician, who stridently imposes his will on his children.

He does agree, however, that Emily can write verse behind closed doors in the dead of night and she is published anonymously in the Springfield Republican.

Supported by her doting sister Vinnie (Jennifer Ehle) and frequently visited by their friend Vryling Buffam (Catherine Bailey), Emily settles into an almost hermetic existence at the family home.

A Quiet Passion is a dense tribute to a trailblazer at odds with the moods of the era. Nixon's mannered, yet

emotionally layered performance is among her best work, embracing all of her subject's foibles and flaws as she pours herself onto the page.

Ehle brings warmth and boundless optimism to her sibling, who appreciates the goodness and compassion in Emily even when the writer cannot see it herself. RATING: 7/10

THE BOSS BABY (U, 97 mins)
Animation/Comedy/Action/ Romance. Featuring the voices of Alec Baldwin, Miles Christopher Bakshi, Jimmy Kimmel, Lisa Kudrow, Steve Buscemi, Conrad Vernon, Tobey Maguire. Director: Tom McGrath. A VIRTUOSO vocal

performance from Alec Baldwin as a tyrannical infant, who wears a black business suit, carries a briefcase and pulls the wool over the eyes of his sleepdeprived adult handlers, almost carries Tom McGrath's colourful computer-animated fantasy to full term.

It's a neat conception though not a smooth delivery and Michael McCullers's screenplay, loosely based on the awardwinning picture book by Marla Frazee, has pregnant pauses

where plot and gags should be. Boss Baby suckles on its premise, feeding Baldwin zinging dialogue like when his pint-sized corporate lackey swats away taunts about having to wear a nappy: "You know who else wears diapers? Astronauts

and NASCAR drivers!"
Evidently, there are only so many genuine laughs to go round before McGrath's harebrained caper has to resort to toilet humour and shameless emotional manipulation to pad out the 97 minutes.

Every night, seven-year-old Tim Templeton (voiced by Miles Christopher Bakshi) enjoys three bedtime stories, five hugs and a special song from his parents Ted (Jimmy Kimmel) and Janice (Lisa Kudrow), who make time for their boy despite demanding jobs at Puppy Co.

This bond is severely tested with the arrival of a brother called Boss Baby (Baldwin), who conceals his status as an executive at BabyCorp until Tim catches the new arrival talking business on a toy 'phone.

It transpires that Boss Baby is on a secret mission to stop Puppy Co's CEO, Francis E Francis (Steve Buscemi), from launching a new product that could weaken humankind's enduring love for babies.

The Boss Baby ties itself in

knots blurring fantasy and

If the title character is supposed to be a product of Tim's overactive imagination, it's hard to accept that a seven-year-old boy would have a detailed grasp on the cut and thrust of corporate America.

Baldwin's bone dry delivery is a masterclass in split-second comic timing and he repeatedly elevates the hit-or-miss material

in McCullers's script.
"There's not enough love to go round," laments Boss Baby. My affection doesn't quite stretch to McGrath's picture. RATING: 5.5/10



Cynthia Nixon as Emily Dickinson and Jennifer Ehle as Vinnie Dickinson

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'Eggtastic' family fun...

CakeWhat's on

in hardback by Harvill Secker, priced £16.99 (ebook £9.99). Available

Linguistics professor Thomas Saunders is on his way home to try and see his mum on her deathbed. The problem is, he just has so much else on his mind... He's supposed to be giving the keynote speech at a big conference in Berlin. His best friend's just been assaulted by his own son. He's anxious about his girlfriend back in Spain, partly because she's half his age and partly because he still hasn't told his family that he left his wife for her two years ago. The novel follows the meanderings and vacillations of Thomas' mind as he navigates these and a hundred other related issues. There are texts and emails to respond to, family members to negotiate, a funeral to survive, and painful memories to contend with.In Extremis is by turns funny, poignant and thought-provoking

Structured with subtle intricacy, superbly controlled, and emotionally intelligent, this is a book to love. 9/10

(Review by Dan Brotzel) FICTION

Birdcage Walk by Helen Dunmore is published in hardback by Hutchinson, priced £18.99 (ebook £9.99). Available now

With her vivid prose, Helen Dunmore is a writer who can make herself at home in any era. Her latest novel takes an oblique look at the French Revolution, showing how distant political events can both impact and have echoes in very personal circumstances. Lizzie, who has been brought up among radicals, is married to sinister speculative builder Diner. His plans to build a terrace of houses above the Avon Gorge are left in tatters when uncertainty caused by the events in France cause the market to collapse. As Lizzie gradually realises the truth about her marriage, so

her radical friends start to see the reality of violent revolution.

(Review by Jackie Kingsley) Ìn The Name Of The Family by Sarah Dunant is published in hardback by Virago, priced £16.99 (ebook £8.99). Available now It's 1502 and Niccolo Machiavelli is called to one of the most exciting diplomatic tasks of his career. Sarah Dunant vividly brings these encounters alive, which go on to be major influences on his treatise on statesmanship, The Prince. However, the historical novel In The Name Of The Family is mainly the tale of the extraordinary Borgia family. Pope Alexander, the venal and corrupt head of the family, ruthlessly promotes the interests of his illegitimate children.Dunant takes the dramatic historical ledger and blends great narrative with the main actors to create an immersive read of Renaissance Italy.



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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Abingdon Artists monthly talk: Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. A demonstration called 'Bold watercolours and ink' by Rod Craig. 730pm £4 for non members Film: Abingdon Health & Wellbeing

Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon Moonlight. USA, 2016, 111mins, Cert 15. 7.45pm. £6. 01235 521976.

Glee Club UK Adult Community Choir: Wantage CE Primary School, Newbury Street, Wantage. Learn Glee Club UK versions of rock and pop songs. 7.30pm. Free first session then £18.50 a month 07900 210969

Macmillan Cancer Support Information Service: Green Macmillan Mobile Unit, Market Square, Alvescot Road, Carterton. Cancer information specialists on hand to answer questions and offer information. 10am. Free. 0207 840 4879.

Poets in Paradise: The Abbey Chapel, Checker Walk, Abingdon. 'Eden vs Arcadia - From Shakespeare, Milton and Goethe to Narnia and Tom Stoppard' by Dr Andrew Welburn, former lecturer, New Collage, Oxford. 7.30pm. Recommended contribution £7. 01235 533887.

Alter-Natives II: Braziers Park, Braziers Lane, Ipsden, Alter-Natives are people who are interested in searching for alternatives to the status quo. The topic is The Healthcare Question: conventional. complementary, or integrative? What is the scope for an integrative approach to both medicine and therapy? Speakers: Dr Sam Harmer, Dr Helen Ford, and more. Visit https://creator.zoho.com/ braziersownbookings/bookingform-2016/form-perma/ AlterNatives_2017/. 9am. 01491 680221.

Museum Book Group: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street Wantage. 2pm. Free but asked to support the museum cafe. 01235 771447.

Newts, Frogs and Toads: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. A guided walk to Little Wittenham Wood to find out all about the amphibians that live there. 7.45pm, £6 adult, £3 child, 01865

SATURDAY

Beginners Wildlife Photography:

Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham Professional photographer Andrew Walmsley will help you get to grips with your camera and provide guidance on capturing images of wildlife. 10am. £80 adult, £70 child (14-16yrs). 01865

Cake & Craft Sale: Methodist Church Hall, Bell Lane/Sheep Street, Bicester. For Breast Cancer Now. 10am. Free. 07843 081885

Cherwell Cats Protection Fundraising Sale: Village Hall, The Green, Fringford. 2pm. 20p, children free.

01869 242730 Easter Fayre: Blue Cross, London Road, Lewknor. 11am. Donations on the door. 0300 777 1500.

Ramblers walk: Cow Common car park. Ewelme, 51/2-mile walk via Hyde Shaw and Swan's Way. 10am. 07904 276243

Second Time Around Sale: Barnes Memorial Hall, Heyford Road, Somerton. New and preloved items. 10am. Free. 01869 346868.

Bingo: Grove Village Hall, Main Street, Grove. Wantage & Grove Lions cash bingo. 6.45pm. 01235 223467.

SUNDAY

Abingdon Rowing Club Spring Head: Rye Farm Meadow, Along the Thames, Abingdon-on-Thames. BBQ, beer tent, rowing machine challenge.

Andy's Quiz Night: The Windrush Club, 106 High Street, Witney. 8pm. £2 per person. 07950 280357.

Cheeki Monkeys Easter

Eggstravaganza: Chasewell Community Centre, Cherwell Heights. Banbury. Indoor baby and children's market and Easter Eggstravaganza event. 10am, £1.50, 07583 544012.

Easter Charity Fun Day: Benson Parish Hall Recreation Grounds, Sunnyside, Benson. Raising funds for the Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary featuring dog and owner races, face painting, arts and crafts, pet portraits, hot food, cold refreshments and more, 12pm, Free, 07967 581959.

Easter Fun Day at Heyford Park: The Green, Camp Road, Upper Heyford. Easter egg hunt, petting zoo, face painting, food and craft stalls, plus a special appearance from the Easter bunny, 11am, Free, 01869 238238.

Intermediate Wildlife Photography: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. With professional photographer Andrew Walmsley. 10am. £80 adult, £70 child (14-16yrs). 01865 407792.

National Garden Scheme: Ashbrook House, Blewbury. The garden where Kenneth Grahame read Wind in the Willows to local children and where he took inspiration for his description of the oak doors for Badger's House. Wheelchair access. Dogs on leads. Homemade teas. 2pm. Adult: £4, chd

SO Bicester Superstore Launch: SO Bicester Superstore, Unit 4, Launton Business Centre, Murdock Road, Bicester. Olympic Gold medallist, Victoria Pendleton, CBE, is supporting Sobell House by officially opening its newest and biggest Bicester superstore. 12pm. Free. 01869 245235.

Spring Fair: Harcourt Arboretum Nuneham Courtenay. Live music, food, local craft stalls and fairground games. 11.30am. Free with entrance (adults £5. children free). 01865 343501.

Tea Dance: The Pavilion, Roosevelt Road, Long Hanborough. Featuring the Peter Gill Swing Band to promote dementia awareness in the community Ticket includes a cream tea. 2pm. £10 07773 362733

MONDAY

Creepy Crawly Comics: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham, Explore the nature reserve to find a natural hero then create a comic with popular cartoonish Neill Cameron, For 7-11 year olds, 10am. £30. 01865 407792.

Easter Holidays at Cogges: Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney. Activities include storytelling, craft and cooking. 10am. Free to season ticket holders/standard admission. 01993 772602.

Make Lace Mondays: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage, All materials provided for a taster session. 1.30pm. Free but asked to support the museum cafe. 01235 771447

TUESDAY

Clumps Club: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham, School holiday club for 7-11 year olds. Different outdoor activities each day. See www.earthtrust.org.uk/ whatson (incurs a booking fee). 9am. £30 per day. 01865 407792.

Easter Eggsplorers: Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, Sutton Courtenay Road, Abingdon. Find out about all the amazing lives of egg-laying animals on a trail around Sutton Courtenay and complete the challenge for a wildlife-friendly chocolate reward. Enjoy craft activities. Activities are aimed at children 4-11 years. 10am. £4. 01235

Epic Egyptians: Vale & Downland

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. This Easter half term join the museum for some Egyptian themed fun & crafts Suitable for all ages, Children must be accompanied by an adult. 10am. Free but donations welcome. 01235 771447.

WEDNESDAY

Free. 01235 835430.

Cotswold Decorative & Fine Arts Society: Village Hall, Bradwell Village, Burford. Dr Annie Gray 'Food as Ephemeral Art: to please the palate, charm the eye'. 10.15am. Non-members welcome (suggested donation £10). Harwell WI: New Cherry Village Hall. High Street, Harwell. Dr Seirian Sumner on 'Why we should love wasps'. 7.30pm.

Oxfordshire Railway Society: Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road,

Botley, 'Policing for Railways, Docks and Canals 1824-1948' . A talk by Steve Beamon, British Transport Police History Group, Visitors welcome, 7,30pm, £3, Queen Victoria and Abdul Karim: Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. The tall, handsome Abdul Karim was just 24 years old when he arrived in England from Agra to wait tables during Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Soon he found himself becoming a powerful figure at court. Shabrini Basu examines in her talk how a young Indian Muslim came to play a central role at the heart of the Empire, and his influence over the queen. 6.45pm. £10. 01993

Music

THURSDAY

New College Chapel, Holywell Street, Oxford: Oxfordshire Festival Orchestra Easter Chamber Series, £5,

The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford: The Demoiselle Northtown Scarecrows, Holly Redford Jones, Semi Urban Fox. Rock, jazz-blues and punk. 7pm. £7.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Emily Saunders & Julian Nicholas. The Spin Jazz Club. Jazz vocalist and saxophonist accompanied by The Spin Trio. 8.30pm. £10, £8 (concs), £6 (students).

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Indica Blues, K Lacura Chronicle, Rock Solid. Hard rock and heavy metal. 7pm. £7.

FRIDAY

Angel, Market Square, Witney: Sub Zero. Covers duo. Free. 9pm. 01993 703238 Berinsfield SC, Green Furlong,

Berinsfield: Pete McCray. Soul and reggae. 9pm. 07770 899859. New College Chapel, Holywell Street, Oxford: Oxfordshire Festival Orchestra Easter Chamber Series. £5.

St Mary Magdalene Church, Park Street, Woodstock: Mozart Requiem. Woodstock Music Society. £12 / £11. 7.30pm, 01993 812760.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Papa Nui, Earinade, Fishwife's Broadside, Steevo Nuissier. 8pm. £5. O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Tigertailz, Terminus, Nasty High. Glam metal. 7pm. £15.

SATURDAY

Bicester Services Club, Sheep

Street, Bicester: Rhythm Street, Fourpiece covers band. 9pm. 01869 245367. St Mary Magdalene Church, Park Street, Woodstock: Mozart Requiem. Woodstock Music Society. £12 / £11. 7.30pm. 01993 812760.

St Denys' Church, Church Green, Stanford in the Vale: Crossing Oceans featuring USA-based cellist Sophie Webber and pianist Jonathan Darnborough. £12. 7.30pm. 01367

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street. Oxford: Bare Knuckle Parade Indie rockers. £11 advance, £13 on the door. 8pm. 01865 263990.

The Pine Lodge, Thame Road, Little Milton: Elliot Morris, Singer/songwriter and guitarist. Tickets £ at LM Shop or online at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org uk. £10. 7pm.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Judie Tzuke. £21.50. 7.45pm 01608 642350

Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford: Lilac Sheer's multi-instrumentalist female ensemble. £15. 7.30pm. 01865 243216.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Audacity Live, Mamzer, Switch Out, Fountains. Local rock bands. 8pm.

Barracks Lane Community Garden, Barracks Lane, off Cumberland Road, Oxford: Nick Cope, Fundraising gig for the garden. 2-3pm. £4.50.

SUNDAY

Church of St John the Baptist, Church Green, Burford: Burford Singers - Handel's Messiah. With Cotswold Chamber Orchestra. £23, £19, £15 reserved, £10 unreserved. 7.30pm.

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Dvorak: Stabat Mater Kennington and District United Church Choirs. Free, collection for Medic Assist International, 3pm, 01865-361431.

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road. Kidlington: Kidlington Concert Brass Notes from a Small Island. £8 adults, £5 students, U16 free, 7pm.

St Giles Church, St Giles, Oxford: Pergolesi Stabat Mater. Anna Shackleton, soprano

Adrian Boorman, countertenor, Jon French, piano. Retiring Collection. 6.30pm, 01865 510460.

St Michael's Church, 1 Abingdon Road, Cumnor: Concert of Flamenco guitar and dance with Tomas Jimenez. All proceeds will go to the charity Project Trust which sends school leavers to teach in deprived areas of Africa and Asia. Free but suggested donation of £5 for charity. 4pm. 07752 135568.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Osprey, Mojo Demon, Monkfish, Maeve Bayton, Purple May. 3.30-8.30pm.

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown: Richard Exall & Any Roberts Quartet, Jazz, 6.30-9pm.

The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton **Street, Oxford:** Tiger Mendoza, Kid Kin, Breezewax. Electronic artists with styles covering electronica, post-rock and downtempo trip-hop. 7.30pm. £3.

MONDAY

Rose Revived, Newbridge, Oxford: Alvin Roy's Reeds Unlimited. Jazz. 7.30pm. Free.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road,

Oxford: Giles Robson, Aki Kumar & Rockin' Johnny Burgin. Haven Club. Blues. 8pm. £10 (adv), £12 (otd), £5 (student).

TUESDAY

Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Russian and English songs and strings. OSJ strings, Jake Muffett baritone. £16/£8. 7.30pm. 07775 904626

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: (Hed) P.E. California based hardcore pioneers. 7pm. £14. The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Laetitia Sadier. Former Stereolab singer with Source Ensemble. 7.30pm. £12.

WEDNESDAY

Talkhouse. Wheatley Road, Stanton St John: Polly Gibbons and the Tim Dawes Trio. Multiple award-winning international jazz and soul singer. 8.30pm, Free, 01865 351654 Brill Sports and Social Club. Church Road, Brill: Jubilee Jazzband.

Free. 8.30pm. 01844 237237. The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Pins. Manchester indie rockers on UK tour. 7pm. £9.

Theatre

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Apr 7, OxPHWOARd: The Self Love Show. Burlesque and drag. 7.30pm, £10-15, 07771 880593, Apr 8. Darius Davies, Tom Deacon, Andrew Ryan and Chris McCausland. Glee comedy. 7.45pm. £15.95. 01865 810000

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Until Apr 6, Hidden. 7.30pm. £10 (£8). Apr 7, *John Osborne:* 3 Stories from Radio 4. 7.30pm. £10 (£8), Apr 8, Three, For ages three to eight, 11am and 2pm, £8 (£6), 01865 305305.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Apr 11, Hammer and Tongue, Live spoken word and the Open Poetry Slam. 8pm. £8.50, £6 (concs). Apr 13-15, Tamburlaine. All-women company. 7.30pm. £12, £10. 01865 263990

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Until Apr 8, Abigail's Party. 7.30pm. £15-£32.50. Apr 11-15, Fantastic Mr Fox. Various times. £12-£23.50, 01865 305305,

The North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Summertown: Apr 7-9. Alchymy Festival. Festival of new writing. See website for details 01865 319450

Amey Theatre, Park Road, Abingdon: Apr 6, NT Live: Twelfth Night. 7pm. £12 / £10. Apr 18-22, Annie. 7.30pm. 01235 849063. Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring

Street, Chipping Norton: Apr 6, Armando Inanucci: Desert Island Books, 7,45pm, £12, 01608 642350, Cornerstone, Station Road, Didcot:

Apr 6, Flat 73. £12.50, concs £11, members £10. Apr 9, Morgan & West Magic Show For Kids and Childish Grown-ups. 2pm. £10, concs £9, memb £9. 01235 515144.

The Beacon, Portway, Wantage: Until Apr 8, Made in Dagenham. 7.30pm. £14. Apr 10, NT Live: Twelfth Night. 7pm. £15. 01235 763456.

The Kings Arms Hotel, 40 Market Square, Bicester: Apr 13, Fawlty Towers Themed Comedy Dining Evening. Ticket includes three-course dinner and entertainment. £39. 07884

Wolvercote Village Hall, Wolvercote Green, Wolvercote: Until Apr 8, A Bad Dream. By Simon Brett. St Peter's Players. 7.30pm. £9, £6 concs. 01865

Docherty nicks crown in thriller

BOWLS

BANBURY Cross player AJ Docherty won the Oxfordshire Indoor singles championship with a thrilling 21-20 victory over Ade Kemish (Oxford City & County) in the final at Chipping

Kemish looked set for victory, when he sprinted ahead 18-11 after 19 ends.
However, Docherty began to find a better

length and three ends later he was only two shots behind, but holding a two to tie the

Another positive shot from Kemish with his last wood trailed the jack a foot or so to pinch two shots for an apparent 20-16 lead.
But the last two ends were dominated by

the Banbury man.

And Docherty clinched the title when his opponent's last wood fell short.

In the over 60 singles final, Nigel Galletly (Banbury Cross) cruised home 21-9 against Keith Mobley (Oxford & District).

Banbury clinched their third title when they

beat Carterton in the pairs final.

After a tight first 11 ends, Docherty and Lee Wilkinson pulled away to beat Paul Sharman and Steve Aldren 24-16.
In the first of their six finals played last

week, Banbury lost the fours 18-10 to

McDonagh fires Puritans to win

Banbury beat Hayes to keep play-off challenge alive

A CONOR McDonagh goal just before half-time earned Banbury United a 1-0 victory at Hayes & Yeading to keep alive their hopes of a play-off place in the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division.

McDonagh was one of three changes from the Puritans side that lost 2-0 at Stratford, starting in place of Many Duku.

Mark Bell came in for the unavailable Tom Winters, while Callum White, who was ill last week returned in place of Eddie Odhia-

The visitors dictated the play from the start.

McDonagh blasted the ball well over the bar from ten yards out, while Luke Carnell powered a

FOOTBALL

header against the Hayes bar.

Banbury took the lead on 38 minutes when Ricky Johnson nodded Tom Bradbury's cross into the path of McDonagh who struck it home from six yards.

The hosts improved in the second half and Banbury keeper Jack Harding had to make a great save from Mitchell Weiss in a oneon-one situation.
Banbury held on for a victory

which takes them to within a point of Merthyr Town in the fi-

nal play-off spot.

Banbury Utd: Harding, White, Bradbury (Self 70),
Martin, Westbrook, Carnell, McEachran, Nash,
Johnson, McDonagh (Duku 74), Bell (Browne 72).
Subs not used: Odhiambo, Humphreys.

Attendance: 201.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Chippenham Tn	42	28	10	4	87	44	94
Leamington Hitchin Tn Slough Tn Merthyr Tn	42 42 42 42	26 24 26 21	11 5	6 7 11 7	73 75 82 82	26 39 49 40	88 83 83 77
Banbury Utd Frome Tn Kettering Tn Biggleswade Chesham Utd Weymouth Basingstoke King's Lynn St Ives Tn Dunstable Tn Stratford Tn Redditch Utd Dorchester Tn St Neots Tn Kings Langley	42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 4	19 19 18 18 13 17 13 14	13 9 10 9 18 5 16 11 6 16 8 9	15 21 21 24	63 77 78 76 64 71 58 55 46 44 56 51 49 60 54	35 61 61 56 54 68 64 64 60 61 71 76 94	76 70 66 64 63 57 56 53 51 49 47 45 42 39
Cirencester Tn Hayes & Utd Cambridge City	42 41 41	9 8 8	11 10	24 22 23	49 40 38	88 73 72	36 35 34

Cracknell's on song as Bulls draw

RUGBY UNION

FREDDIE Cracknell scored four tries as Banbury drew 25-25 at home to Swindon.

Despite two Cracknell tries, both unconverted, Bulls trailed 20-10 at

But Cracknell completed his hattrick, before stretching over again to level the match.

An unconverted try put Swindon back in front, but John Fox crashed over to make it 25-25.

Banbury are next in action on Saturday when they face Windsor.

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70906 585 4362 70906 585 4368

Success is written in the stars for your sign and all you have to do is focus. You've spent far to lon pring to do what a right for veryone else when you should be doing what's right for you. Aries link to gospi which is not true. News you get from far away gives you reason to make pace with what happened in the past. Ring so I can help you make your life the pest it can be.

Jul 23-Aug 22 🐴 AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

110906 585 4364 **11**0906 585 4370

I know you're lacking courage to do what's needed, but you can limd it if you ask for help. Not even you can do everything on Virgo, even though you make more progress this week than you have all official forms of inciation help you make more progress this week than you have all

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Announcements - Public Notices

Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of the proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the above Act to authorise the stopping up of an irregular shaped southern part width of Camp Road at Upper Heyford in the District of Cherwell.

If made, the Order would authorise the stopping up only to enable development as permitted by Cherwell District Council, under reference 10/01642/OUT and 16/01000/F.

Copies of the draft Order and relevant plan will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at Heyford Park Free School, 52 Camp Road, Dupper Heyford, Oxfordshire, OX25 5HD in the 28 days commencing on 6 April 2017, and may be obtained, free of charge, from the address stated below (quoting NATTRAN/SE/S247/2752).

Any person may object to the making of the proposed order by stating their reasons in writing to the Secretary of State at national casework@dft.gsi.gov.uk or National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR, quoting the above reference. Objections should be received by midnight on 4 May 2017. Any person submitting any correspondence is advised that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant/agent to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your correspondence.

S Zamenzadeh, Casework Manager

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Teachers reveal why they decided to go back to the classroom

ARE you considering a career in education? Read on to find out why two teachers picked a teaching career and what motivates them.

Name: Mark Adams

Age: 28

Subject: Maths

Current school: St Peters RC Secondary School, Solihull

1. Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I've always enjoyed maths, and thought that with my experience in finance I'd have something good to offer. I decided to do a PGCE and fell in love with it.

2. What are your favourite things about teaching?

With maths, there's always a defined solution to the problem. You either get it right or wrong. It's a subject I've always been passionate about and I think that comes across in my teaching style.

3. What is the most rewarding aspect of teaching?

The best moment was a couple of years ago, when one of my students came to the staff room and asked to speak to me. She was quite emotional at first, but she said she'd just wanted to thank me for helping her in maths, because she never thought she could do that well.

Name: Ruth O'Shea

Age: 28

Subject: Spanish

Current school: Glyn School, Epsom,

1. Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I decided to become a teacher having studied Spanish at university and having

spent two years living in Spain. Teaching was a career which I wasn't 100 per cent sure that I would be good at, or love, but it offered a great opportunity to train for a professional career that would provide a stable income while allowing me to continue with my passion for languages.

2. What are you most passionate about in teaching?

I am most passionate about creating a safe and engaging learning environment for students. For me, one of the best things about teaching is the impact you can have on a student's life.

3. What is the most rewarding aspect of teaching?

For me the most rewarding aspect of teaching is having the freedom to be creative and collaborating with others, and as a result of that being able to see the difference it can make to the students



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Motors - first for new cars

New Car Launch Model Of The Week

by Jonathan Crouch



All-new Insignia gets all-wheel drive



VAUXHALL'S Insignia has taken a step up-market in MK2 model Grand Sport guise. Jonathan Crouch looks at what's on offer.

Ten Second Review

The second generation version of Vauxhall's Insignia gains 'Grand Sport' badging in five-door form, along with smarter looks, a classier cabin, hi-tech features and an efficient engine range. If, like many business buyers, you're browsing in the £20,000 to £30,000 bracket selecting a medium range Mondeo segment model or a compact executive saloon contender, it's a car you really can't afford to overlook.

Background

If you perceive Vauxhall's Insignia as a middle management mainstream company car, then the brand reckons it's time you had a re-think. The second generation version of this model gets sleeker looks and a new 'Grand Sport' name for the five-door hatch bodystyle. It's much lighter and more sophisticated than its predecessor, with a more spacious cabin, plus the option of 4WD and a new 8-speed auto gearbox.
Think of a feature you can get in a

pricey compact German premium brand - LED matrix lighting, Lane Keep Assist, Head-up Display, cutting-edge media connectivity. All of it's on offer here, plus use of Vauxhall's brilliant OnStar concierge system. It's a strong package.

Driving Experience

We've yet to drive this car but the prospects appear promising. As

you'd expect, this Insignia Grand Sport gets a wide range of turbo charged engines and transmissions there's a mix of 1.5 and 2.0-litre turbocharged petrols and 1.6 and 2.0litre turbodiesels. Plus buyers will be offered the option of a highly efficient new eight-speed automatic transmission which Vauxhall says has class-leading shift quality. The gear ratios have been extended and shifts smoother. To start with the eight-speed auto transmission will only be available in combination with 4WD, an all-wheel traction ystem that for the first time in a 4x4 Vauxhall, works with torque vectoring for better cornering traction, enabling the Insignia Grand Sport to corner more precisely. The system reacts within a split-second when the accelerator pressed, keeping the car more stable and easier to control

Across the Insignia Grand Sport range, the further improved FlexRide chassis will better complement this car's dynamic demeanour. It adapts the dampers. steering, throttle response and (on auto models) gear shift points. either independently or based on selectable 'Standard', 'Sport' or Tour' modes. Depending on the selected setting, steering and throttle response are more direct and the ESP anti-skid system intervenes earlier or later. The new central 'Drive Mode Control software is the heart and soul of the adaptive chassis. It continuously analyses the information provided by the sensors and settings and recognises your individual driving style.

Design and Build

Vauxhall reckons that this Insignia Grand Sport has 'the aura of a car from the premium, upper class': you decide. It certainly looks a great deal smarter than its predecessor. There's only a hatch bodystyle available now, but expect a 'Grand Tourer' estate to follow. The prominent grille and slim-line headlamps enhance the wide horizontal design of the front end and provide it with a bold appearance. The grille sits lower than on the outgoing model and further emphasises its solid stance. What Vauxhall calls a 'sweepspear' feature starts in the front door and gives the impression that this model is always ready to pounce, which is a nod to the athletic lightness of the Monza Concept car that inspired it

More importantly, under the skin, this design has shed up to 175kgs over its predecessor. Its roof is 29mm lower and its track has increased by 11mm. The overhangs have been reduced considerably and the wheelbase enlarged by 92mm. And the exemplary drag factor of 0.26 makes this car one of the most aerodynamic vehicles in its class. The cabin has also taken a step up-market. The driver sits lower and is surrounded by clean lines, pleas-ant surfaces and impressive build quality, a highlight being the frameless touchscreen of the improved IntelliLink infotainment system. The extended wheelbase gives passengers in the rear more space.

Market and Model

We're still waiting for confirmation on pricing from Vauxhall but

we can expect entry-level Insignia Grand Sport modes to start at under £25,000, with the other variants being sold in the £25,000 to £35,000. There's plenty of clever equipment features that should interest that target market. The 'IntelliLux LED matrix light' for example, which illuminates with 32 LED segments and integrates in this Insignia's smarter, slimmer headlamps. Other driver assistance systems include a Head-up-Display, Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning and Rear Cross Traffic Alert.

Vauxhall is still one of the few manufacturers to offer seats certified the 'Campaign for Healthy Backs'. And, as for media connectivity, well, as you would expect, the IntelliLink infotainment system is compatible with the Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Insignia Grand Sport buyers also get Vauxhall OnStar, the brand's the ground-breaking connectivity and service assistant. This offers services ranging from Automatic Crash Response to Stolen Vehicle Assistance.

Cost of Ownership Around 85% of Insignia buyers go for a diesel - and you can see why. Well over 70mpg is possible from the 2.0 CDTi unit most Grand Sport buyers will choose. As for residual values, well these will depend on whether the industry recognises this Grand Sport model's shift up-market.
You'll also need to know that

Vauxhall includes a three-year, 60,000 mile warranty as standard, a package that can be extended up to five years and 100,000 miles at extra cost. A year's free breakdown cover is also provided, along with a sixyear anti-corrosion guarantee. Plus you can opt for a service plan that lets you pay monthly to spread the cost of regular work to your car. As part of this, Vauxhall offers discounts on wear and tear items, such as brake pads and windscreen wipers.

But if course, it does bear a Vauxhall badge - which requires in turn a degree of open-mindedness on the part of potential buyers. That's asking a lot but it's difficult to see what else the brand could have done in pursuit of its objectives here. If you're buying in this sector and are amongst the few people untroubled by badge equity, you'll find plenty to like.

Facts at a glance

CAR: Vauxhall Insignia Grand Sport PRICES: £23,000-£35,000 [est] INSURANCE GROUPS: TBC
CO2 EMISSIONS:
[2.0 CDTi 170PS] 130g/km
PERFORMANCE: [2.0 CDTi 170PS] 0-62mph 10.5s / top speed 127mph [est] FUEL CONSUMPTION: [2.0 CDTi 170PS] (combined) 60mpg [est] STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES: Front, side, driver's knee and full curtain airbags, ESP, **ABS. Hill Start Assist** WILL IT FIT IN YOUR GARAGE?:

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Source: Continental Research 2008: 41% respondents stated they used local media as a source of information when looking to buy a car from a private seller. Local media = newspaper websites and supplements



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